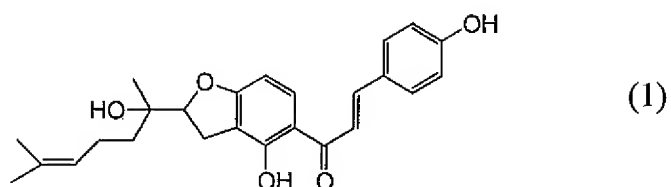


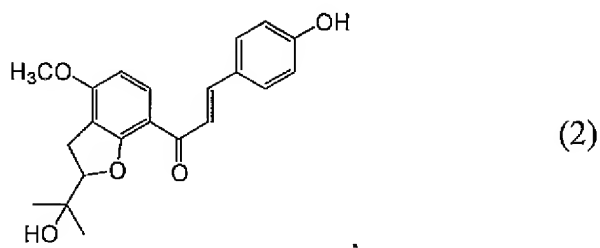
**IN THE CLAIMS**

1. (Currently Amended) A chalcone compound represented by any one of the following formulas (1) to (9): ~~its derivative~~, or a salt thereof

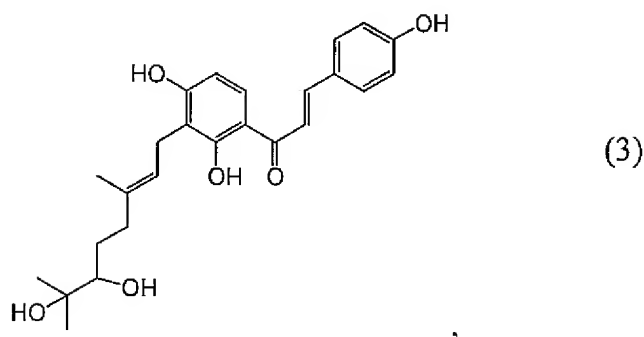
[Ka 1]



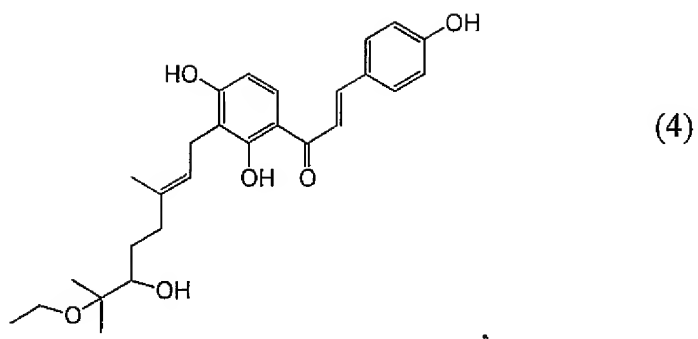
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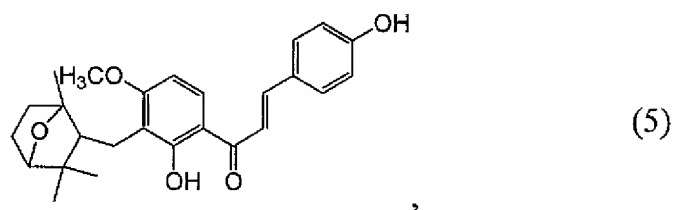
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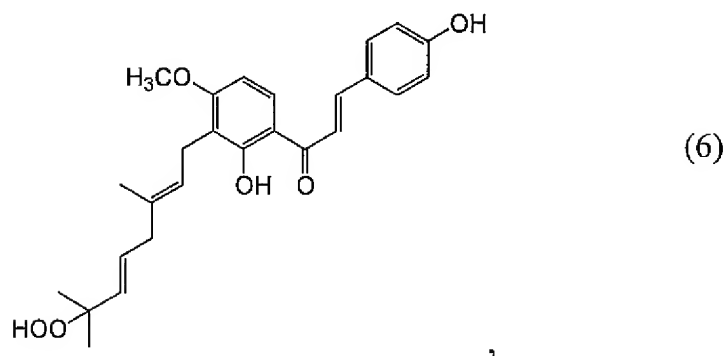
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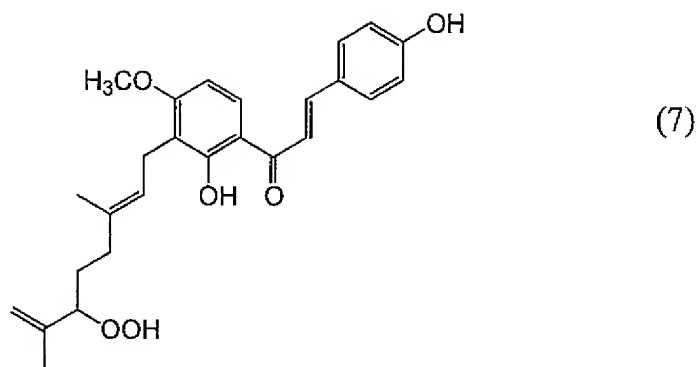
[Ka 5]



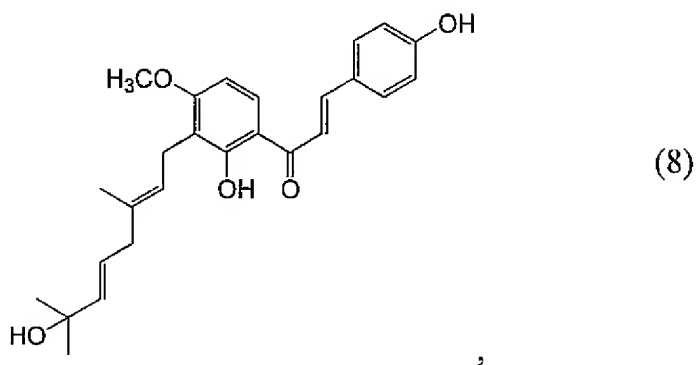
[Ka 6]



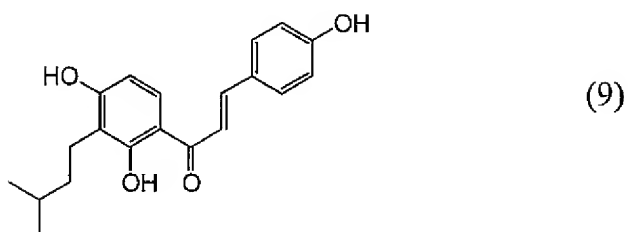
[Ka 7]



[Ka 8]



[Ka 9]



2. (Currently Amended) A therapeutic agent or ~~prophylactic agent~~, characterized in that ~~the agent comprises as an effective ingredient~~ comprising the compound, ~~its derivative~~, or a salt thereof, ~~each as defined in according to~~ claim 1, ~~wherein the therapeutic agent or prophylactic agent of a disease shows sensitivity to the compound.~~

3. (Cancelled)

4. (Currently Amended) A ~~suppressive~~ An agent ~~[[of]]~~ which suppresses nitrogen monoxide production or ~~an inhibitory agent of~~ which inhibits aldose reductase, characterized in that ~~the agent comprises as~~ comprising an effective ingredient amount of the compound, ~~its derivative, or a salt thereof, each as defined in according to~~ claim 1.

5. (Currently Amended) A food, beverage or feed, ~~eharacterized in that the food, beverage or feed comprises~~ comprising the compound, ~~its derivative~~, or a salt thereof, ~~each as defined in according to~~ claim 1.

6.-7. (Cancelled)

8. (New) The compound according to claim 1, which is a hydrolyzable prodrug, or a salt thereof.

9. (New) The compound according to claim 1, which is an ester thereof or an ether thereof, or comprises a hydrolyzable glycoside, or a salt thereof.

10. (New) A method of treating a subject in need thereof, which comprises administering an effective amount of a compound according to claim 1 to a subject in need thereof, wherein said subject in need thereof suffers from one or more diseases or afflictions selected from the group consisting of: carcinogenetic diseases, inflammatory diseases, chronic rheumatic arthritis, rheumatic osteoarthritis, gouty arthritis, Behcet's disease, cataracts, peripheral nerve disease, nephritic disease, infections caused by lowering of phagocytotic action of leukocytes, diabetic coma, and arteriosclerosis caused by atheromatous degeneration in the great vessel wall.

11. (New) The method according to claim 10, wherein an amount of the compound administered is from 10  $\mu\text{g/g}$  to 100 mg/kg of body weight of the subject.